

Plans, Master Plans and Amendments

Report to the Board – September 8th through October 14th, 2011

Municipality	Borough of Florham Park
Document	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – 2011
Public Hearing	September 26, 2011
Summary	The Plan includes an inventory of preserved lands and identifies additional public and private lands that may be preserved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2011 Borough of Florham Park Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a detailed update of the 2001 Florham Park Open Space and Recreation Plan. The new Plan, prepared by the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, reconfirms the goals of the 2001 document, updates the inventory of preserved open space and provides a detailed block and lot inventory of additional public and private lands that may be appropriate for preservation. According to the document, the Borough of Florham Park has 395 acres of permanently protected open space, including Federal and County lands, and land owed by non-profit organizations. These lands make up about 8% of the municipality's total land area. Of the 395 acres of preserved lands reported, 36 acres have been preserved since the adoption of the previous 2001 Plan. • In order to increase the amount of preserved land in the Borough, the Plan recommends that the Borough utilize a diverse inventory of potential preservation properties. The Borough identifies 56 acres of farm-assessed property and 740 acres of vacant land as potential open space. In addition, the plan identifies privately owned lands of which a portion may be suitable for recreation or conservation. Utilizing this expanded definition of potential open space, the report identifies an additional 1,621 acres of potential open space. This figure includes public lands, school property, church and charitable properties and cemeteries. Also included were residential and commercial lands greater than two acres in size. A list of priority sites for open space acquisition is not included. • A series of maps are included in the Plan showing environmental features and preserved lands. These maps culminate in a Greenway Map that incorporates the municipality's natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources and demonstrates how they are linked together. Specific greenways and blueways identified include the Passaic Meadows and Black Meadows Greenway, the Emmet Park Greenway, the Passaic River, Spring Garden, Pinch Brook and Black Cat Ditch Blueway. • The Plan's "Action Program" is divided into short-term, medium-term, long-term and ongoing actions. Recommendations include the evaluation of vacant properties for potential acquisition, development of an acquisition priority list and the expansion of the Green Acres Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) with several tax exempt and tax foreclosure properties. The plan also supports investigation of the River-Friendly Business Certification program to increase awareness of the Whippany and Passaic River Watersheds. The Plan supports continued application to the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund and the NJ Green Acres program for funding to protect local open space. 	

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Report to the Board – September 8th through October 14th, 2011

Municipality	Borough of Mendham
Document	Amendment to the Mendham Borough Recreation Plan Element regarding the Mendham Borough Loop Trail.
Public Hearing	October 11, 2011
Summary	The amendment to the Mendham Recreation Plan concerns an update of the existing Loop Trail Plan designed to provide a path around Mendham Borough connecting the west and east sides of Patriots Path.

- The Mendham Borough Loop Trail Plan was originally conceived in the early 1980's and a proposed alignment is contained in the Recreation Element of the 2006 Mendham Borough Master Plan. In May 2011, the Borough Engineer and the Loop Trail Planning Team prepared a new Loop Trail Plan Report. This team included members of the Borough Environmental Commission, New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions, Borough Land Use and Open Space Officials, the Schiff Natural Land Trust, the Borough Department of Public Works, Borough Planning Board and the West Morris Mendham High School.
- The Report includes an implementation plan related to the seven major Loop Plan route segments: Patriots Path to Cosma Place, Cosma Place to West Field, West Field to Heather Hill Way, Heather Hill Way to Talmage Road, Talmage Road to Mendham High School, Mendham High School to Main Street and Main Street to Patriots Path.
- The Report includes details on the nature and status of each route segment, and proposed improvements. The Report also includes trail design guidelines, and addresses accessibility and maintenance issues. A new Loop Trail Master Plan Map is also included depicting the location of existing and proposed trail linkages/improvements, and the location of proposed trail marker signage.
- The proposed amendment to the 2006 Recreation Plan Element includes language describing the content of the May 2011 Report, and incorporates this report and the new Loop Trail Plan alignment into the Mendham Borough Recreation Plan.

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Report to the Board – September 8th through October 14th, 2011

Municipality	Township of Hanover
Document	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – 2011
Public Hearing	October 11, 2011
Summary	The Plan includes an inventory of preserved lands and identifies additional public and private lands that may be preserved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2011 Township of Hanover Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a detailed update of the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The 2011 Plan, prepared by the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, reconfirms the goals of the 2001 document, updates the inventory of preserved open space and provides a block and lot inventory of additional public and private lands that may be appropriate for preservation. According to the document, Hanover Township has 907 acres of permanently protected open space, including lands owned by the State, County, by non-profit organizations, township lands and lands on which there are conservation easements. This makes up approximately 13% of the Township's total land area. Of the 907 acres of preserved lands reported, 367 have been preserved since the adoption of the previous 2001 Plan. • The Plan provides a detailed inventory of lands considered to have potential for inclusion as preserved open space. Included in this inventory are “undeveloped” lands such as public property, farm assessed property and vacant land, totaling 526 acres. In addition, the Plan examines lands that are privately owned for which a portion may be suitable for recreation or conservation. These lands include public lands, school property, church and charitable properties and cemeteries. Also included were residential and commercial lands greater than one acre in size. With vacant lands, this brings the total to 3,436 acres of land identified as potential open space. A list of priority sites for open space acquisition is not included. • A series of maps are included in the Plan showing environmental features and preserved lands. These maps illustrate land use/land cover, natural features, aquifer/groundwater recharge potential, endangered species habitat, Highlands land use capability zones, existing open space/land use, public and preserved lands. • The Plan's “Action Program” is divided into short-term, medium-term, long-term and ongoing actions. Recommendations include the evaluation of properties for potential acquisition and coordination with the Morris County Park Commission and neighboring municipalities to explore preservation and trail connectivity efforts. The Plan also recommends investigation of the Morris County Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program and development of a comprehensive Trail Plan to provide alternative transportation routes between parks and population centers. 	